

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 063489
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON:MRC
APPROVED BY NEA:ALFRED L.ATHERTON, JR.
INR:HNSAUNDERS
M/CT:AMB. ISHAM
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----085169 121906Z /42

O 121851Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063489

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PE, PI, GS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO TERRORIST INCIDENT IN ISRAEL

1. IN CONVERSATION SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 11, WITH
AMBASSADOR GHORBAL, ATHERTON INFORMED HIM OF THE TERRORIST
ATTACK ON ISRAELI TOURIST BUS, OF WHICH HE HAD NOT BEEN
AWARE. ATHERTON SUGGESTED THAT HE CONSIDER SERIOUSLY
WHAT HE MIGHT RECOMMEND TO HIS GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS PUBLIC
REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT. PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.S.
WILL BE WATCHING CLOSELY, AND MANY WILL RECALL THAT ISRAEL
HAD MADE A STATEMENT CONDEMNING TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 063489

EGYPTIANS IN CYPRUS.

2. COMMENT: SATURDAY'S SERIOUS TERRORIST INCIDENT WILL
HAVE DEEP EMOTIONAL IMPACT IN ISRAEL AND CAN ONLY
COMPLICATE EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE RETHINKING IN ISRAEL ABOUT
SOME OF ITS POSITIONS IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICULARLY
ON DIFFICULT ISSUES RELATING TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND

FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A PRIMARY MOTIVE OF PERPETRATORS OF THIS ATTACK IS TO UNDERMINE THE PEACE PROCESS SET IN MOTION BY PRESIDENT SADAT.

3. AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF ALL OF OUR EFFORTS IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD WILL BE TO MINIMIZE THE FALL-OUT FROM THIS INCIDENT, AND FROM THE ALMOST INEVITABLE ISRAELI RETALIATORY ACTION, ON OUR ATTEMPTS TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO FUTURE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS WILL BE THE ISRAELI AND U.S. PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF THE ATTITUDE OF MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY EGYPT, TOWARD THIS OUTRAGE. WE ARE NOT UNMINDFUL OF THE DILEMMA THIS POSES FOR THE EGYPTIANS, CONSIDERING THEIR ALREADY VULNERABLE POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD. WE THINK IT NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT TO GET ACROSS TO THEM HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THEY FIND WAYS TO DISASSOCIATE THEMSELVES FROM THIS TERRORIST ATTACK AND TO CONDEMN IT IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR GENERAL POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, AND TO GUIDE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC MEDIA ACCORDINGLY. WE LEAVE THIS TO YOU TO HANDLE IN WHATEVER WAY YOU BELIEVE WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE063489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTON:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780110-1240
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacnth.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d15e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3358130
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO TERRORIST INCIDENT IN ISRAEL
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, EG, IS
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d15e74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014